- FCC commissioner seeks must-carry review
- United Cable undertakes major share buyback
- Daniels unveils cut-rate pay service pricing plan
- Southern Calif. ad campaign draws 29,500 calls in first 12 days

Gimmer of hope for copyright compromise

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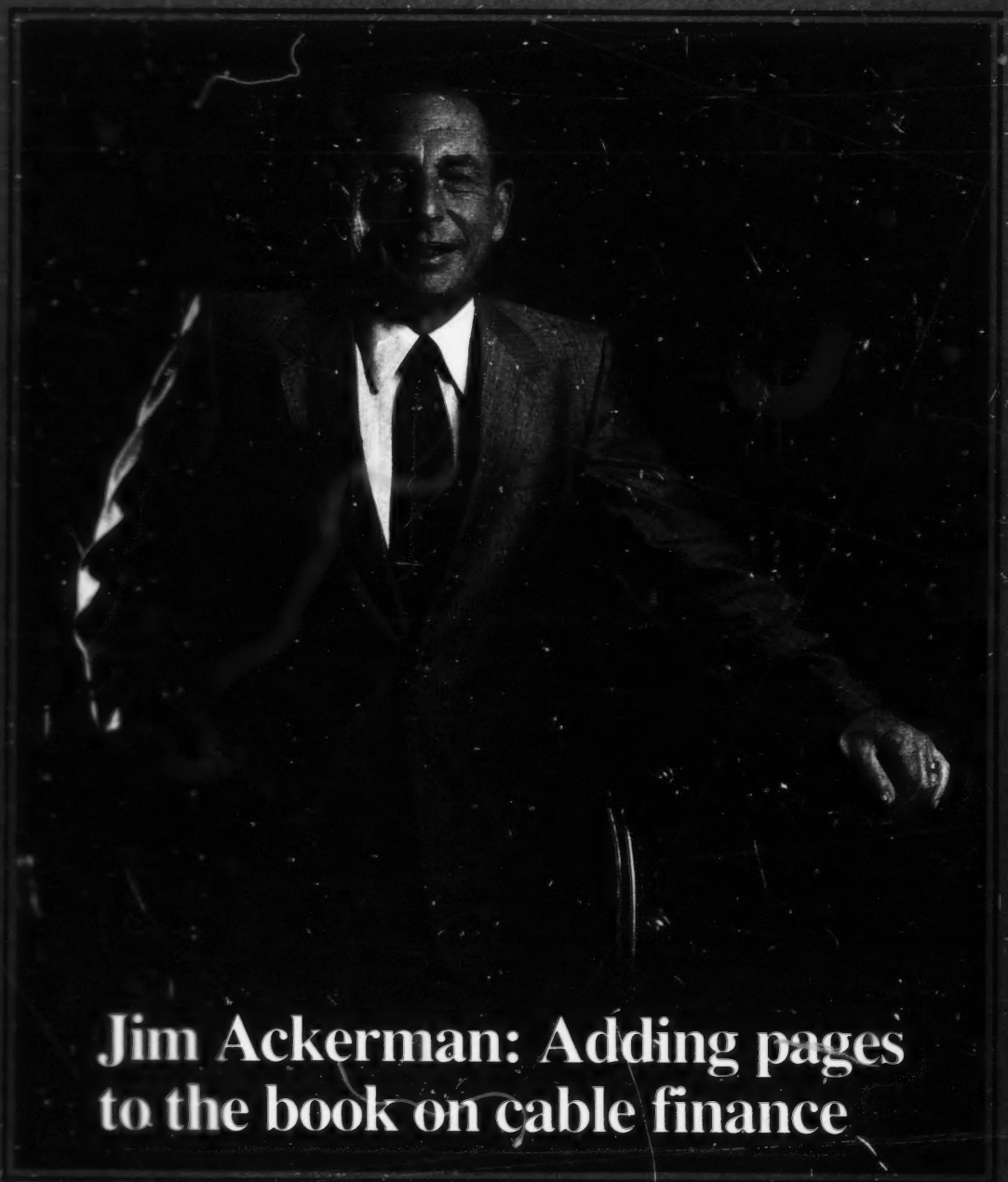
CableVision

The news and features weekly of the cable television industry

May 6, 1985



Jim Ackerman: Adding pages to the book on cable finance

Leading the week 11-25

Flat fee compromise

The beginning of a compromise agreement between copyright owners and industry officials involves a flat per-sub fee for imported distant signals.

CRT head asked to resign

In what was originally expected to be a routine budget authorization hearing, members of the House subcommittee charged with copyright jurisdiction attacked the competency of the Copyright Royalty Tribunal and the personal morals of CRT Chairman Marianne Hall.

McGraw Hill negotiates with TCI

McGraw Hill negotiates with Tele-Communications Inc. for joint venture participation in X'Press, the personal computer downloading project.

United offers stock buyback

United Cable Television launches a 2-million-share, $80 million stock buyback offer which could increase Tele-Communications interest in the company.

Viacom/Warner Amex deal?

Viacom International Inc. appears to be seriously considering a deal involving acquisition of some of Warner Amex Cable's properties.

Call for review of FCC's must-carry rules

Henry Rivera, one of the five commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, last week called for a comprehensive review of the FCC's beleaguered must-carry rules, despite resistance among the other FCC commissioners to any initiation of rulemaking procedures on the subject.

Canada execs argue over rate proposal

Canadian cable industry officials press their case for regulatory relief at a series of public hearings organized by the country's radio-television and telecommunications commission.

Big response to California campaign

Several callers respond to a television ad campaign sponsored by 60 Southern California cable systems.

Showtime joins Daniels' 'Showcase'

Showtime agrees to participate in an expanded trial of Daniels and Associates' deep-discount, pay-packaging plan called "Showcase".

Disney Channel introductions

The Disney Channel, entering its third year of service, is introducing newly produced programs along with classic acquisitions this week under a mandate to better segment its viewing audience and programming lineup.

Cover-up

The Playboy Channel will tone down their program offerings in an attempt to appeal to a broader audience.

VH-1 makes the lineup

Sammons Communications will finally introduce VH-1 in some of its franchises this month. It was the only top 40 MSO not running the MTV Networks Inc. service.

Nielsen reports

A.C. Nielsen and Co. presents its summary on television viewership showing again that networks lose part of their audience when cable is in the home.

Expanding home services

Piedmont Cablevision is finding that offering an expanded home entertainment lineup will keep revenue growing in spite of 85 percent penetration.

Cox turns down bid for committee

Cox Communications says no to a bid by two outside directors to form a special committee to review the buyout offer by Cox Enterprises.

Hagler-Hearns fight grosses $1.2M for L.A. ops

Final figures have been tallied, and the April 15 Hagler-Hearns fight grossed a record $1.2 million from cable pay-per-view homes in Southern California.

Future planning

Jay James will head up Showtime/TMC's expanded strategic planning department in an effort to become more involved in long-range projects.

COVER STORY

Jim Ackerman, a 26-year cable television veteran, shares his views, on various topics, in an interview with *CableVision* Executive Editor Fred Dawson.

Review **28**

Robert DiMatteo is pleasantly surprised by Brigitte Bardot's "charming" biography presented by Bravo, despite the subtitles, but disappointed by the second season of *Brothers* after a great kickoff year.

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Franchising calendar

This chart examines the franchise status of communities since April 1985.

California
Chino—BuenaVision franchise agreement revoked. Acceptingproposals. (12,000 homes).
Claremont—RFP revised and sent out. Bids due May 6, 1985. (9,800 homes).
East Yolo—reviewing applications from Sonic Cable, Yolo Cable TV, Yolo Cable Communications Co. and Pacific Federal Communications (10,000 homes).
La Puente—award to United Cable 11/28/84 (8,600 homes).
Los Altos—award to United Cable 12/84 (9,000 homes).
Palo Alto—negotiating with Cable Communications Co-op of Palo Alto and City Cable Partners Inc. until April (23,000 homes).
Rosemead—award to Falcon Communications 2/26/85 (14,000 homes).
South Monrovia—award to Falcon Communications 9/18 (5,400 homes).
Yorba Linda—deadline extended for statements of interest (12,000 homes).

Delaware
Wilmington—negotiating with Rollins Cable (140,000 homes).

District of Columbia
Washington, D.C.—award to District Cablevision 7/10/84 (254,000 homes).

Illinois
Chicago—Area I award to Communications and Cable (300,000 homes).
Countryside—award to Cablevision of Chicago 6/13/84 (2,200 homes).
Elmwood Park—award to Continental Cable 12/17/84 (9,500 homes).
Naperville—award to Rite Cable Co. of Illinois Limited. Rite Cable of Illinois bid for unincorporated areas of DuPage County. (17,500 homes).
St. Charles, Geneva—award to Centel 7/2/84 (10,000 homes).
Wheaton—award to Centel 7/2/84 (16,000 homes).
Winnetka—survey showed interest in cable insufficient to warrant franchise.
Woodbridge—terminated franchising process (260 homes).

Kentucky
Fulton—award to TCI 12/13/84 (2,400 homes).
Loretto—terminated franchise process.

Maryland
Baltimore—award to United Cable 12/19/84 (302,000 homes).

Massachusetts
Belchertown—negotiating with Clearview Cablevision.
Belmont—received applications from Nashoba, American and Belmont Cablevision (9,900 homes).
Berkley, Dighton, Freetown—award to Continental Cablevision.
Boxborough—award to Nashoba 1/7/85 (3,100 homes).
Cambridge—award to American Cable Systems of Cambridge 3/22/85 (43,000 homes).
Danvers—award to Nashoba 1/85 (8,600 homes).
East Bridgewater—award to Continental Cable 12/3/84 (2,500 homes).
Groton—award to United Video 2/25.
Hamilton and Wenham—award to Continental Cable 3/5/84 (2,300 homes).
Holden—award to Massachusetts Cablevision Systems Inc. 7/84 (4,000 homes).
Holliston—award to Massachusetts Cablevision Systems Inc. 7/84 (3,922 homes).
Lincoln—short franchise process re-initiated. Proposals due 5/1/85.
Marblehead—award to Continental Cable 12/84.
Medfield—provisional license to Massachusetts Cablevision 2/85 (3,400 homes).
Mendon—award to Massachusetts Cablevision Systems 1/7 (1,200 homes).
Middleborough—award to Continental Cablevision 5/14/84 (3,834 homes).
Nahant—accepting applications until May 30, 1985 (1,433 homes).
Sandwich—award to Campbell Communications (5,000 homes).
Seekonk—Seekonk Cable appealed selectman's decision to award Massachusetts Cable. Hearing held 3/26/85, awaiting final decision. (6,000 homes).
Shirley—provisional license granted to Nashoba Communications 10/84. Reviewing contract, final decision by June 30, 1985 (1,827 homes).
Southborough—provisional license to Greater Worcester Cablevision (2,000 homes).
Sterling—award to Wachusett Cablevision (2,000 homes).
Stow—provisional license to Adams-Russell 9/84. Final license should be signed in mid-June 1985 (1,600 homes).
Townsend—accepting applications until 4/11/85 (2,306 homes).
Wayland—award to Continental Cablevision 6/4/84 (3,500 homes).
Westminster—preliminary award to Adams-Russell; Adams-Russell requested revision of rate structure.
Weston—award to Continental Cable Cooperative 8/6/84 (3,000 homes).
Westport—award to United Cablevision Funding 9/4/84 (5,500 homes).

Michigan
Almont—award to Michigan Cable 11/84.
Atlas—award to Michigan Cable 8/84.
Brandon—award to Michigan Cable 11/84.
Brown City—award to Pioneer Cablevision.
Cedar Creek—award to Horizon Cable 7/84.
Dalton—award to Horizon Cable 7/84.
Goodrich—award to Michigan Cable 9/84.
Lake Orion, Orion Twp—final award to Tribune-United 12/27/84 (7,800 homes).
North Branch—award to Michigan Cable 8/84.
Thortonville—award to Michigan Cable.
Waconia—award to Westel 12/18/84 (1,024 homes).
Windom—approved municipal ownership, launched 2/1/84 (1,875 homes).

Minnesota
Amboy—award to Mid Communications Inc. 7/84 (280 homes).
Barrett—award to Battlelake Cable 7/84 (165 homes).
Belle Plaine—award to Dow-Sat of Minnesota 11/9/84 (973 homes).
Big Lake, Buffalo, Cokato, Dassel, Delano, Elk River, Monticello, Rockford, Watertown, Maple Lake—award to Rite Cable, under construction. (10,200 homes).
Bird Island—award to North American Communications Corp. 10/84 (568 homes).
Cannon Falls—award to North American Cable Communications Corp. (1,060 homes).
Credit River—award to North American Communications Corp. 10/84 (880 homes).
Eden Valley and Watkins—award to WesTel Inc. 2/84 (640 homes).
Floodwood—award to Individual Satellite System Inc. 8/84 (325 homes).
Glenville—award to WesTel 6/84 (275 homes).
Good Thunder—award to Mid Communications Inc. 7/84 (225 homes).
Grand Meadow—award to Southern Cablevision Inc. 9/84 (360 homes).
Hill City—award to Individual Satellite Systems 11/84 (400 homes).
Hinckley—award to Savage Communications 7/84 (420 homes).
Hokah—award to Valley Video Systems Inc. 7/84 (270 homes).
Holdingford—award to WesTel Inc. 2/84 (245 homes).
Howard Lake—award to WesTel Inc. 8/84 (510 homes).
Kerkhoven—award to Heritage Communications 7/84 (310 homes).
Lester Prairie, Winsted—award to Dowden Communications 7/84 (1,000 homes).
Lindstrom, Stacy—award to Dow-Sat of Minnesota (1,230 homes).
Mabel—award to Valley Video Systems Inc. 6/84 (325 homes).
Maple Plain—award to Dow-Sat of Minnesota (481 homes).
Mapleton—award to WesTel Inc. 8/84 (600 homes).
Mazeppa—award to Individual Satellite Systems 9/84 (280 homes).
Medford—award to WesTel Inc. 7/84 (300 homes).
Montrose—award transferred to Valley View 8/84 (300 homes).
Morristown—award to Cannon Valley Telecom Inc. 7/84 (250 homes).
Morton—award to Todd Communications Inc. 5/84 (225 homes).
Murdock—award to Cavanaugh Cable Co. 6/84 (140 homes).
New Prague—award to Valley View Cable Inc. 7/84 (1,130 homes).

Nisswa—award to Interlake Cablevision Inc. 5/84 (1,100 homes).
Northern Dakota City—preliminary award to Continental (25,000 homes).
Pierz—award to WesTel Inc. 8/84 (420 homes).
Renville—award to WesTel Inc. 7/84 (600 homes).
Rite—award to Benton Cooperative Telephone Co. 8/84 (165 homes).
St. Joseph—award to WesTel Inc. (1,100 homes).
St. Paul—city wins appeal in favor of Continental Cablevision (111,000 homes).
Sandstone—award to Savage Communications 9/84 (580 homes).
Savage—preliminary award to North American Cable Communications 4/85 (1,272 homes).
Sherburn—award to Rite Cable (10,200 homes).
Spring Grove—award to Valley Video Systems 8/84 (580 homes).
Spring Lake—award to North American Communications Corp. 10/84 (920 homes).
TriCity Cable Commission (Cold Springs, Richmond, Rockville)—award to WesTel Inc. 8/84 (1,200 homes).
Truman—award to Terril Telephone Co. 5/84 (550 homes).
Waconia—award to Westel 12/18/84 (1,024 homes).
Waterville, Elysian—award to WesTel Inc. 8/84 (750 homes).
Waubeen—award to Harold Investments Inc. 9/84 (150 homes).
Wendell—award to M & E Cable 4/84 (95 homes).
West St. Paul, South St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Mendota, Inner Grove Heights, Lilydale, Sinfish Lake—preliminary award to Continental Cablevision 6/6/84 (24,032 homes).
Windom—approved municipal ownership, launched 2/1/84 (1,875 homes).

Missouri

St. Louis—award to STL Cablevision Partners Inc. (75% of city) and St. Louis City Communications (25% of city) 4/11/84 (178,000 homes).

New Hampshire

Keene—renewed franchise with Group W including a rebuild and rate increase (19,360 homes).
Manchester—award to United Cable.
Newton—negotiating with Harron Communications (1,124 homes).
Sandown—negotiating with Continental Cablevision (800 homes).

New Jersey

Jersey City—moving ahead on municipal ownership despite lawsuit by Controlled Cable originally granted franchise.
Patterson—reviewing proposals from Marsh Media, Greater Media, Patterson Communications Network, Patterson Cable Services and U.S. Cable and TCI (55,000 homes).

New York

Mt. Upton—terminated franchise process.
North Salem—award to Community Cable Services 12/84 (1,100 homes).
Portland—cable committee formed to begin franchise process. Tribune Cable, Harborview and U.S. Cable sent letters expressing interest (150 homes).

North Carolina

Davie County—award to Summit Cable.
Jackson—award to Cable East (400 homes).

Ohio

Avon—award to Space Cable of Ohio 4/23/84 (2,000 homes).
Brooklyn—municipal ownership under consideration (4,000 homes).
Cleveland—evaluating bids from Royal American Group, Greater Cleveland Cable TV Associates and Northcoast Cable.
Oberlin—preliminary award to Oberlin Cable Co-op 5/6/84 (2,600 homes).

Oregon

Dunthorpe—no response to RFP.
Seattle—city is divided into four parts; Group W, Viacom and Seattle Community Cablevision serve overlapping sections of three parts; part IV is beginning franchising process.
Sylvan—awaiting legal opinion needed for commission to vote on Sylvan Video Cable (1,200 homes).

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia—city is divided into four areas; Area I award to Greater Philadelphia Cablevision; Area II award to Wade Communications; Area III award to Rollins; Area IV award to Comcast 11/84 (each area: 155,000 homes).

Rhode Island

Battleground—negotiating with Cox Cable (1,000 homes).
Newport (Area 7 includes Middletown, Portsmouth, Tiverton, Little Compton)—award to Bellevue Cablevision Inc.; appealed before Rhode Island Superior Court and Rhode Island Supreme Court (29,500 homes).

Virginia

Manassas—reviewing proposals from Cablevision of Manassas Ltd., Teleset Communications Inc., C4 Media of Manassas Ltd. and City of Manassas Cable (5,510 homes).

Washington

Battle Ground—negotiating with Cox Cable (1,000 homes).

Wisconsin

Hayward—award to Cable TV of Hayward (1,000 homes).
New Glarus—award to Telephone and Data Systems 7/17/84 (675 homes).
Waterford—award to Total TV 9/84 (600 homes).

Source: International Thomson Communications Inc.

Franchising in the top 50 markets

Rank	Market	Status of core city
1.	New York	Manhattan—2-OP; outer boroughs 5-FG
2.	Los Angeles	City is divided into 14 areas (A-n); 11-OP, 3-UC
3.	Chicago	City is divided into five areas; Area I-FG, Areas II, III-OP, Areas IV, V-FG
4.	Philadelphia	City is divided into four areas: Areas I, II, III, IV-FG
5.	San Francisco	OP (system to be upgraded)
6.	Boston	OP
7.	Detroit	FG
8.	Washington, D.C.	FG
9.	Cleveland	RP
10.	Dallas/Ft. Worth	Two systems-OP
11.	Houston	Two systems-OP
12.	Pittsburgh	OP
13.	Miami	OP
14.	Seattle/Tacoma	City is divided into five parts: (4-OP), (1-BP); Tacoma-OP
15.	Minneapolis/St. Paul	OP/UC
16.	Atlanta	OP
17.	St. Louis	UC/FG
18.	Tampa/St. Petersburg	OP/OP
19.	Denver	OP
20.	Baltimore	FG
21.	Sacramento/ Stockton	OP/OP
22.	Indianapolis	Two systems-OP
23.	Portland	Three systems-OP
24.	Phoenix	Three systems-OP
25.	Hartford/ New Haven	Two systems-OP
26.	Cincinnati	OP
27.	San Diego	Two systems-OP
28.	Kansas City	OP
29.	Milwaukee	OP
30.	Nashville	OP
31.	Charlotte	OP
32.	Buffalo	OP
33.	Providence/ New Bedford	OP/OP
34.	Orlando/ Daytona Beach	Two systems-OP
35.	New Orleans	OP
36.	Memphis	OP
37.	Columbus	Four systems-OP
38.	Greenville/Asheville/Spartansburg	Three systems-OP
39.	Grand Rapids/ Kalamazoo/ Battle Creek	Three systems-OP
40.	Birmingham	OP
41.	Raleigh/Durham	Two systems-OP
42.	Oklahoma City	Two systems-OP
43.	Louisville	Two systems-OP
44.	Salt Lake City	OP
45.	San Antonio	OP
46.	Charleston/ Huntington	Two systems-OP
47.	Norfolk/Newport News/New Hampton/Portsmouth	Four systems-OP
48.	Harrisburg/York/ Lebanon/Lancaster	Four systems-OP
49.	Wilkes Barre/ Scranton	Two systems-OP
50.	Albany/Schenectady/Troy	Three systems-OP

Legend

OP — operational
UC — under construction
FG — franchise granted
FP — franchise pending
PS — proposal submitted
RP — request for proposals issued
RPP — request for proposals pending
MO — considering municipal ownership
BP — beginning process

Source: International Thomson Communications Inc.